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Claims 1-3(Original

1. A method of operating a communications network, comprising:

    a) establishing a data flow between a customer terminal and another data terminal, the data flow conforming to a best-effort packet-routing protocol;

    b) subsequently initiating from the customer terminal the use of the a switched virtual circuit through the network for the data flow.

2. A method according to claim 1 including a step, prior to step (b), of communicating to the customer terminal data indicating the availability of a switched virtual circuit in the network for the said data flow.

3. A method according to claim 2, in which the said data indicating the availability of a switched virtual circuit comprises a URL having a format specific to resources located on a circuit-connected network.

Claims 4-6(Currently Amended)

4.   (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the packet-routing protocol is Internet Protocol.

5.   (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the switched virtual circuit is established in an ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) network.

6.   (Amended) A terminal for use in a method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, the terminal including a packet data interface for connection to a communications network, and means for initiating a switched virtual circuit in the communications network, which switched virtual circuit, in use, provides a circuit-connected path for packet data communicated via the said packet data interface.

Claim 7(Original)

7. A communications network including one or more terminals according to claim 6.